

Living on an animal sanctuary is a lot like being on a roller coaster — you experience highs and lows, curves and roundabouts — and most of them are brought about by other humans.

It's fair to say the past two months have been exactly like this

The highs have seen a number of new residents come and join us, some whom have been rescued from potential doom by humans. Rhode Island Red bantam roosters Huey and Duey (pic below) are two examples.

What would you do if you came across two chickens wandering along a stretch of road with no obvious signs of where they'd come from? Recently, Jacqui was faced with this dilemma, when she came across the couple in the middle of nowhere, fearing a fox would take them Jacqui caught them and offered them temporarily care, while she leafleted nearby neighbourhoods trying to locate their human. Jacqui thought this latter step could be a long shot, as she was suspicious they had been dumped and was not surprised when no one contacted her. Knowing her neighbours would eventually start complaining of the noise and realising she couldn't offer them appropriate long-term accommodation, Jacqui approached A Poultry Place to see if there was room for them when no one came forward. A few days later Jacqui chauffeured these two gorgeous guys here.



Two other new faces — Laverne and Big Boo (pictured left and apparently named after characters from the TV series *Orange is the New Black*) were hatched in a hatching project at a preschool. Phoebe, the owner of the preschool has now become a warrior against such projects and spreading the word to her amongst her professional colleagues — here's why:

"No, I would never do the hatching chicks program again and I really do wish there was more awareness about it. This whole thing has been a reality check and a nightmare. I didn't find anything negative online leading up to the experience, but since we have done it I've managed to talk a couple of other educators out of doing it. It has been really stressful trying to re-home the 4 boys we ended up with."

Five other tiny by-products of these silly projects (pictured right) have also joined the family and there's been two more inquiries about taking in hatching projects chicks received during the past fortnight — you can tell it's the end of the school term, cause that's when there's always a spike in such inquiries.

But of course with every happy ending there are the sad ones. Like the client at a Sydney vet surgery who refused to let allow his rooster, which he believed to be “too dangerous” re-homed. Despite the protests of one of the staff the clinic said “it was required to do what the client wishes”.



Last month in conjunction with NSW Hen Rescue, A Poultry Place had agreed to take in some of 200-plus hens who were at the end of the “commercial life” (18 months old) at a nearby free range egg farm and scheduled to be sent off to be slaughtered and become pet food. Sadly, after spending the weekend making preparations, arranging transport and already finding some potential forever homes for these girls the rescue failed to materialise. The farm informed Hen Rescue that all the hens had been sent to slaughter the night before as the pet food supplier had an ongoing contract and would be upset to not take all of the hens

Deaths of residents are always sad occasions. It's an inevitability of living on a sanctuary that you have to say goodbye to residents, one such instance in recent weeks was farewelling Molly the sheep.

Molly the sheep arrived in 2002 a very woolly sheep, who was perhaps two-years-old and had never been shorn. Her appearance at first terrified the five lambs who had been recently adopted and had no doubt never seen such a woolly one before — but once she lost her coat Molly assumed the role of matron of the mob, which she has ever since. While never especially friendly towards non-sheep Molly was one of the pioneers of A Poultry Place and would always be one of the first sheep to make friends with any new faces in the mob. She will be missed. She left us peacefully during the night in her 15th or 16th year (which is old age for a sheep) and is now no doubt catching up with all her old friends who have gone before her.



In late November, A Poultry Place was lent a hand by eight members of Vegan ACT, which has began doing regular working bees at sanctuaries around the region. Big thanks to Michele, Gareth, Francine, Tracey, Kane, Reeni, Veronica and Marie who lent a hand doing some fence fixing, painting, cleaning out sheds and even some weeding! And best news is they are keen to come out again next year and repeat the experience!

Speaking of thanking people, as this will be the final update of the year I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing interest and support in A Poultry Place this year — it is always appreciated.

As most of you know I don't like this time of year for an number of reasons — weather is one of them and the picture is bleak for the rest of summer sadly the Bureau of Meteorology said that Spring was the second warmest on record and this summer is expected to be warmer than usual

Finally, A Poultry Place is the December Charity of the Month with The Cruelty Free Shop so if you are ordering online with them this month please consider making a donation towards the running costs of the sanctuary.

**TO VISIT A POULTRY PLACE EMAIL
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